

REMARKS:

- 1) The claims have been amended as follows.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of prior claims 7 and 8.

Claims 7, 8 and 14 have been canceled.

Various dependent claims have been amended for proper conformance in view of the amendment of independent claim 1.

These amendments do not involve any new matter. Entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.

- 2) Referring to section 18 on page 6 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in prior claim 8 is appreciated. The allowable subject matter of claim 8 and intervening claim 7 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 to 6, 9 to 13 and 15 to 19 should now be allowable.

- 3) Referring to sections 1 to 17 on pages 2 to 6 of the Office Action, the prior art rejections of claims 1 to 7 and 9 to 19 have been obviated by the present amendment. Namely, independent claim 1 now incorporates the allowable subject matter of prior non-rejected claim 8. Thus, the rejections are not applicable. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

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- 8 -

- 4) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 6, 9 to 13 and 15 to 19, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Applicant

WFF:he/4640  
Enclosures:  
Term Extension Request  
Form PTO-2038  
Transmittal Cover Sheet

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